



Borough of Chambersburg

*A full service municipality in Franklin County
celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service
over 100 years of community electric and a
regional wastewater, water, and municipal solid waste utility*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chambersburg to Submit Plan for Green Waste Recycling Center to PA DEP

Chambersburg – The Borough of Chambersburg was recently issued a notice of concern for the unregulated disposal of yard waste at the Borough Farm on Dump Road. This notice requires that the Borough design a new and improved system for the recycling of green yard waste and wood, in accord with State and Federal laws.

Town Council, in response, appointed a Committee consisting of Councilman Huber, Councilman Paszkowsk, Council President McLaughlin, the Borough Manager and the Assistant Borough Manager to develop a new plan to begin in 2014. A notice was sent to every utility customer telling them that significant changes in the yard waste program were coming in 2014. ARRO Consulting of Lititz, Pennsylvania, was engaged to assist the Committee in developing a plan consistent with the goals as outlined by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Unfortunately, the current program is not acceptable to the DEP. A new program, which includes tough regulations on what yard waste we accept, and how we mulch and chip and store it, is required by law.

We are required to submit this plan to the Department of Environmental Protection by December 13, 2013. A new plan must be approved by DEP in the form of an operating permit to be issued for a yard waste site.

Right now, Borough residents who pay their monthly trash bill get unlimited drop off at the Borough Farm. Also, registered landscapers get unlimited drop off with a low quarterly permit. Our citizens have enjoyed this excellent benefit for decades but unfortunately, additional staff, equipment, and facilities will be required to maintain a program going forward; expenses which are not currently covered by any taxes or fees.

At the Regular Meeting of Town Council on December 9, 2013, a plan to address this issue was approved for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

The proposal includes rules for the three categories of permit holders including a punch card system for Borough residential sanitation department users, which would cost \$12 for 12 unlimited visits to the site; and, weighing the tons of yard waste delivered by the other two categories of users on large truck scales, which would be bought and installed at this site. The cost for disposal for commercial/industrial landscapers/contractors/tree services, and non-profit government agencies/local landlords/property managers would be significantly higher than the Borough currently charges, which is \$250 per calendar quarter. Now, they will pay essentially the same fee that the Borough pays to dispose of municipal solid waste (garbage) at the Blue Mountain Landfill in Scotland, PA. This additional tipping fee cost, plus a significant security deposit, and invoice system, could be a large burden on the local commercial yard waste companies.

However, these changes are needed to establish a new site, with new measures, and new processes.

No tax money is used to pay for our current or future yard waste recycling program. It is run by the Borough Sanitation Department and paid for by user fees.

In addition, the Committee selected a proposed site to move the green yard waste recycling operation and to shut the Borough Farm property beginning in 2014.

The Green Waste Recycling Committee considered four (4) possible sites that meet the PA Department of Environmental Protection Best Management Practices (BMP) to apply for a State permit to conduct a green yard waste recycling operation. The sites were discussed and evaluated and the Committee asked the Borough Manager to propose the enclosed site as a finalist to Town Council. Any site selection is conditional upon many items not the least of which is issuance of an operating permit from DEP as well as other State and local permits. If the operation does not receive permits, the purchase will not be finalized.

The Borough Solicitor, Council President and the Borough Manager have negotiated a Sales Agreement to buy a piece of land from Elk Ridge Partners LLC on West Commerce Street, just west of the Borough line, in Hamilton Township, near Edenville Road.

The site, known as the **Elk Ridge Site** is fully 10.23 acres with 6 to 7 acre flat undeveloped yard. Our consulting engineer and DEP have both indicated that an application to DEP for a permit to use this site would be evaluated favorably.

The purchase agreement would be conditional upon many approvals.

Town Council approved the Sales Agreement, which is fully contingent on many possible issues including a due diligence review to be undertaken by the Borough Solicitor, and authorization to construct the site by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Hamilton Township, and the Franklin County Conservation District. Every condition must be met of the site will not be acquired by the Borough.

The purchase price is \$50,000 per acre (or less than \$350,000) with a \$10,000 refundable deposit is required upon execution of the Agreement. The \$10,000 will come from available cash on hand in the Sanitation Fund.

If the site is finally awarded a permit from DEP for the operation of the site as a yard waste recycling center, the Borough would move to settlement and acquire the site from Elk Ridge LLC. That acquisition would require a mortgage or debt issuance.

The land will be owned by the Chambersburg Sanitation Department. The cost of the land would be retired over ten or twenty years by the Sanitation Department using receipts collected from the operation of the yard waste recycling operation.

A diagram of the proposed site and the proposed DEP rules and policies are enclosed.

For more information related to the Chambersburg Public Works, call David Finch, Assistant Borough Manager, at the Borough of Chambersburg, (717) 261-3200 or dfinch@chambersburgpa.gov

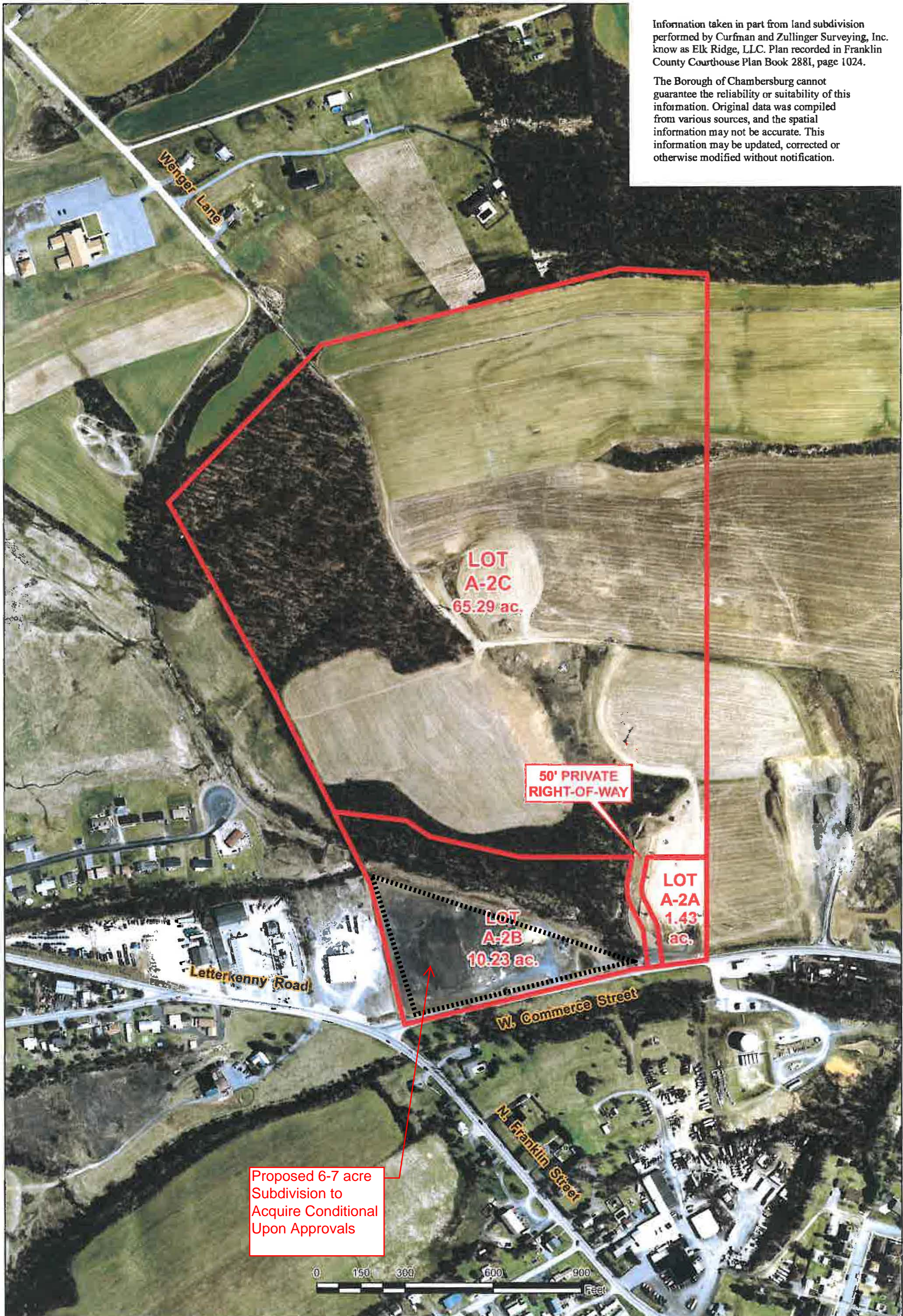
Chambersburg has Pennsylvania's only municipal natural gas utility, owned and operated by the citizens of the Borough for the benefit of all. Chambersburg is Pennsylvania's largest municipal electric utility, and the only one that owns and operates generation stations. Chambersburg provides natural gas, electricity, water, sewer and trash for the residents and business throughout most of the Borough. Under local control, rates, policies, etc., and decided by Chambersburg Town Council.



Property of Elk Ridge, LLC

Information taken in part from land subdivision performed by Curfman and Zullinger Surveying, Inc. know as Elk Ridge, LLC. Plan recorded in Franklin County Courthouse Plan Book 2881, page 1024.

The Borough of Chambersburg cannot guarantee the reliability or suitability of this information. Original data was compiled from various sources, and the spatial information may not be accurate. This information may be updated, corrected or otherwise modified without notification.



Chambersburg Woody Recycling Facility



Woody

The Chambersburg Borough yard waste/green waste/brush recycling facility is proposed to be at 455 W Commerce Street.

1. Hours of Operation

From the first Monday in April to the Second Friday in November the site hours are as follows:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays: Noon to 6 PM

Fridays & Sundays: 3 PM to 6 PM

Closed to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays

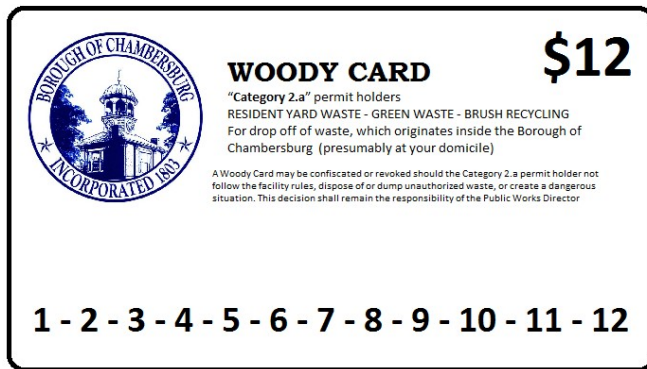
During winter months, contractors may make arrangements with the Sanitation Department for site access; citizens will be authorized to use the facility after storms or when special drop off days are advertised by the Sanitation Department.

These hours are subject to change so watch for postings and mailings.



2. Who can use the site:
- a. Those residents who are either renters or property owners and live inside the Borough of Chambersburg, as their primary residence, and who pay a Borough trash bill (i.e., are a Borough residential Sanitation customer) may use the site by obtaining a “Woody Card” (details below in Section 3)(to be known as “**Category 2.a**” permit holders) to recycle yard waste/green waste/brush which only originates inside the Borough of Chambersburg.
 - b. Commercial and professional landscapers (or similar contractors) may register with the Borough of Chambersburg to dispose of yard waste/green waste/brush at the facility regardless of their residency or from where the yard waste/green waste/brush originates (details below in Section 4)(to be known as “**Category 2.b**” permit holders).
 - c. Landlords, property owners, commercial property managers, and government/non-profit entities who own or manage property within the Borough of Chambersburg, regardless of their residency, but only for yard waste/green waste/brush which originates inside the Borough of Chambersburg (details below in Section 5)(to be known as “**Category 2.c**” permit holders).
 - d. Non-residents are not authorized to use the facility unless they fall into one of the categories above. For example, non-residents who neither live in the Borough nor manage property inside the Borough are fully prohibited; unless approved under Section j below.
 - e. Non-residents who wish to drop off waste “on behalf of” a Category 2.a permit holder need to bring the Category 2.a Woody Card with them to the facility.
 - f. Non-residents cannot drop off yard waste/green waste/brush “on behalf of” a Category 2.c permit holder unless they are a Category 2.c permit holder and pay the Category 2.c fee.
 - g. Only vehicles with a Category 2.a Woody Card, a Category 2.b permit, or a Category 2.c permit will be authorized to access the facility.
 - h. When open, the facility will have a gatekeeper and all vehicles must check in with the gatekeeper prior to accessing the site.
 - i. When in doubt, the gatekeeper is authorized to deny access to the site so as to insure that the Borough Sanitation Department does not violate any permit or legal requirement to operate the site. Ultimately, management of the site is the responsibility of the Public Works Director.
 - j. The Town Council reserves the right, through inter-municipal agreement, to sell or distribute Category 2.a Woody Cards to residents of an alternate municipality, at a rate to be set by agreement with the other municipality. Other rules may apply.

3. Category 2.a Woody Card:



- a. A Woody Card is available only to those residents who are either renters or property owners and who live inside the Borough of Chambersburg, as their primary residence, and who pay a Borough residential trash bill (are a Borough Sanitation customer) without exception. A Woody Card can only be used for yard waste/green waste/brush which originates inside the Borough of Chambersburg (presumably at the permit holder's domicile).
- b. A Woody Card can be obtained by visiting City Hall, 100 S Second Street, during business hours, presenting photo identification, and confirming that you pay a Borough trash bill (are a Borough Sanitation residential customer) by presenting a copy of your bill.
- c. A Woody Card will cost \$12 (due at the time the card is issued) and will afford the card holder to twelve visits to the Woody Recycling Facility
- d. A Woody Card will not be replaced if lost or stolen
- e. A Woody Card should not be transferred or resold but may be lent to a friend or relative who wish to drop off waste "on behalf of" a Category 2.a permit holder (rules apply)
- f. Non-residents are not authorized to use the facility unless they qualify under a Category 2.b or Category 2.c permit, and those caught using a Woody Card for non-approved Category 2.a waste may be banned from the facility (i.e. using a Woody Card to drop off yard waste/green waste/brush from a property in a township).
- g. A Woody Card cannot be used by those who qualify for either a Category 2.b permit or a Category 2.c permit (i.e. a Category 2.a permit holder cannot lend their Woody Card to their professional landscaper to drop off their yard waste/green waste/brush)
- h. Staff will punch each Woody Card upon visit to the facility. Once a card is punched twelve times, it may be destroyed.
- i. A Woody Card is not available for sale at the facility, only at City Hall, and only during business hours. There are no transactions at the facility.
- j. A Woody Card may be confiscated or revoked should the Category 2.a permit holder not follow the facility rules, dispose of or dump unauthorized waste, or create a dangerous situation. This decision shall remain the responsibility of the Public Works Director.

4. Category 2.b Permits: Commercial and professional landscapers (or similar contractors) for the disposal of yard waste/green waste/brush regardless of their residency or from where the yard waste/green waste/brush originates:
- a. Any commercial or professional landscaper, or tree service, or contractor, or construction company, or commercial entity, whether for profit or non-profit, who works on or services any property either within the Borough of Chambersburg or in Franklin County may pre-register as an authorized Category 2.b permit holder.
 - b. Only those pre-registered Category 2.b permit holders may use the facility.
 - c. A Category 2.b permit is not available for sale at the facility, only at City Hall, and only during business hours. There are no transactions at the facility.
 - d. A Category 2.b. permit holder may deposit non-resident yard waste/green waste/brush at the facility.
 - e. Pre-authorization includes the completion of a form at the Borough Codes office, submission of a letter on company letterhead requesting a permit, the name of the owner(s) and contact information for the company, and a 24 hour per day contact name for the business operation.
 - f. Each permit holder must pay a security deposit of \$1,000 to obtain a Category 2.b permit. The security deposit will be held on account (similar to utility deposits) and will be returned when the permit is revoked or returned to the Borough of Chambersburg Codes Office; less any outstanding fees or charges.
 - g. The Category 2.b permit must be present in the lead vehicle and presented to staff to gain access to the facility. Failure to show a Category 2.b permit may result in the permit holder being denied access to the facility. The permit is important for billing the fee.
 - h. The Borough is not responsible for a lost or stolen Category 2.b permit and any vehicle presenting a Category 2.b permit will be given access to the facility and their waste fees charged to the Category 2.b permit holder. Report lost permits immediately to prevent unauthorized use of the permit and assessment of charges.
 - i. Waste fees: each category 2.b permit holder will be invoiced for each ton of eligible waste deposited at the facility; in pound increments, at a rate to be set by the Borough of Chambersburg equal to the lowest qualified bid received for the disposal of municipal solid waste in the Borough's trash contract (to be known as "the tipping fee").
For 2014: \$40 per ton (2000 pounds)

- j. The tipping fee for disposal of eligible waste will be invoiced to the permit holder per the information provided to the Borough of Chambersburg Codes Office.
- k. The tipping fee is due and payable upon receipt of the invoice.
- l. The Borough may apply the security deposit to cover outstanding tipping fee expenses not paid on the first business day following 15 days after the date on the invoice, including a 10% administrative expense should it be necessary to confiscate the security deposit for unpaid tipping fee expenses.
- m. Once the security deposit is confiscated, the Borough may revoke and confiscate the Category 2.b permit. Once all past due charges are paid and a new security deposit is paid, the permit holder may request a new permit. If the security deposit is confiscated for nonpayment, the permit holder will be required to increase their security deposit in \$1,000 increments for each confiscation (i.e. \$2,000 for second security deposit, \$3,000 for third security deposit, etc.)
- n. A Borough resident who owns or manages real estate outside the Borough limits (i.e. a landlord of a rental property in the townships) but who otherwise lives for his residency inside the Borough, would be a Category 2.b permit holder for yard waste/green waste/brush originating outside the Borough and a Category 2.a or Category 2.c permit holder for waste originating inside the Borough. Only Category 2.b waste can originate from outside the Borough limits.
- o. A Category 2.b permit may be confiscated or revoked indefinitely should the holder not follow the facility rules, dispose of or dump unauthorized waste, create a dangerous situation, or demonstrate a pattern of late or inconsistent payment of tipping fees. This decision shall remain the responsibility of the Public Works Director.

5. Category 2.c Permits: Landlords, property owners, commercial property managers, and government/non-profit entities who own or manage property within the Borough of Chambersburg, regardless of their residency, but only for yard waste/green waste/brush which originates inside the Borough of Chambersburg :
- a. An authorized Category 2.c permit holder is any property owner or property manager who is dropping waste generated inside the Borough from a property in which they have a real estate interest (i.e. own or lease), but not from their own domicile (as under a Category 2.a permit) but, rather from another property that they own or manage inside the Borough; and, not as a professional landscaper, or tree service, or contractor, or construction company, or commercial entity (as under a Category 2.b permit); or because they do not have a residential sanitation account (because for whatever reason the account is not in their name); or because they are another government entity or institution with property in the Borough of Chambersburg.
 - b. Only those pre-registered Category 2.c permit holders may use the facility.
 - c. A Category 2.c permit is not available for sale at the facility, only at City Hall, and only during business hours. There are no transactions at the facility.
 - d. A Category 2.c. permit holder may not deposit yard waste/green waste/brush generated outside the Borough at the facility; all waste deposited at the facility must originate in the Borough of Chambersburg. Those caught using a Category 2.c permit for non-resident waste may be banned from the facility.
 - e. Pre-authorization includes the completion of a form at Borough Codes office, submission of a letter on company letterhead (if applicable) requesting a permit, the name of the owner(s) and contact information for the entity, and a 24 hour per day contact name for the permit holder.
 - f. A security deposit is **not** required to obtain a Category 2.c permit unless the permit holder demonstrates a pattern of late or inconsistent payment of tipping fees, wherein the Public Works Director reserves the right to apply the same security deposit requirements as detailed in the rules for a Category 2.b permit.
 - g. The Category 2.c permit must be present in the lead vehicle and presented to staff to gain access to the facility. Failure to show a Category 2.c permit may result in the permit holder being denied access to the facility. The permit is important for billing the fee.
 - h. The Borough is not responsible for a lost or stolen Category 2.c permit and any vehicle presenting a Category 2.c permit will be given access to the facility and their waste fees

charged to the Category 2.c permit holder. Report lost permits immediately to prevent unauthorized use of the permit and assessment of charges.

- i. Waste fees: each category 2.c permit holder will be invoiced for each ton of eligible waste deposited at the facility; in pound increments, at a rate to be set by the Borough of Chambersburg equal to the lowest qualified bid received for the disposal of municipal solid waste in the Borough's trash contract (to be known as "the tipping fee") less a 10% discount on each invoice.

For 2014: \$40 per ton (2000 pounds) less 10% discount on each invoice

- j. The tipping fee for disposal of eligible waste will be invoiced to the permit holder per the information provided to the Borough of Chambersburg Codes Office.
- k. The tipping fee is due and payable upon receipt of the invoice.
- l. A one time 10% late fee will be added to each outstanding invoice if the invoice remains unpaid on the first business day following 15 days after the date on the invoice.
- m. Once the late fee is issued, the Borough may revoke and confiscate the Category 2.c permit. Once all past due charges are paid, the permit holder may request their permit be reactivated.
- n. A Borough resident who owns or manages real estate outside the Borough limits (i.e. a landlord of a rental property in the townships) but who otherwise lives for his residency inside the Borough, would be a Category 2.b permit holder for waste originating outside the Borough and a Category 2.a or Category 2.c permit holder for waste originating inside the Borough. Only Category 2.b waste can originate from outside the Borough limits.
- o. A Category 2.c permit may be confiscated or revoked indefinitely should the holder not follow the facility rules, dispose of or dump unauthorized waste, create a dangerous situation, or demonstrate a pattern of late or inconsistent payment of tipping fees. This decision shall remain the responsibility of the Public Works Director.

- 6. In all cases, the Public Works Director shall determine eligibility for each permit category and may determine, at their discretion, which category is most applicable to an applicant, given the facts that present themselves. The decision of the Public Works Director is final.

7. Access to the facility is not an obligation and the Borough may deny anyone access to the facility if such restriction is found to be in the best interest of the Borough or the yard waste/green waste/brush recycling program.
8. The fees and charges assessed to this program pay for the program and no tax revenue or alternate source of Borough money is used to operate this program. Therefore fees are due and payable without exception and may not be waived for hardship or otherwise, so that the program may have sufficient income to pay for the cost of program.

9. Eligible Waste

- a. Acorns
- b. Bark
- c. Branches
- d. Brush
- e. Bushes
- f. Flowers
- g. Foliage
- h. Kindling
- i. Knots
- j. Leaves (not fall tree leaves)
- k. Limbs
- l. Plants
- m. Root balls
- n. Sawdust
- o. Shrubs
- p. Twigs
- q. Wood chips

10. Ineligible Waste

- a. **Grass clippings:** per Pennsylvania State Law, grass is trash and not eligible for recycling. Grass should be placed in trash bags or cans and left out with your municipal solid waste for collection and disposal. Grass can also be mulched and left on your lawn to help it grown or deposited in a backyard compost heap. Grass is not an eligible yard waste.
- b. **Fall leaves:** the Borough collects and recycles fall leaves in a separate program. Property owners should sweep and rake fall leaves loose to the curb line/wind row for on street collection by the Borough. Leaves should not be placed in bags; they should be left loose for collection. Fall leaves are not eligible to be included in the yard waste program.
- c. **Plastic Bags:** the Borough cannot receive any plastic bags as the plastic is not recycled by our program. Eligible waste should be dropped at the facility either loose or in Kraft style paper bags, which are available through home improvement retailers. Waste in plastic bags will be rejected.

- d. **Municipal solid waste or construction debris:** the Borough cannot receive any garbage or construction debris as a part of this program. Garbage includes refuse, industrial or office waste and other material, including solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous material resulting from operation of residential, municipal, commercial or institutional establishments and from community activities. In addition, beams, block, brick, concrete, construction wood, decking, dirt, dowels, grime, gypsum, metal, nails/tacks/fasteners, pallets, paneling, plastic, plywood, shale, shingles, siding, soil and stone are all ineligible waste.

11. Size limits and Tree trunks

- a. **All tree trunks must be chipped prior to being dropped at the site.** The Borough will no longer receive tree trunks that exceed the size and weight limits below
- b. No individual item may weigh more than 30 lbs
- c. No individual item may be longer in length than 6 feet
- d. No individual item may have a diameter in excess of 6 inches
- e. Organic material may need to be chopped or chipped prior to delivery to the site to meet these requirements
- f. In general, logs and trunks must be cut down in order to meet size/weight limits

12. Processing of waste

- a. The Borough will chop, chip and grind the waste into a mulch that can be recycled for a number of purposes
- b. The Borough may dispose of the product through a recycling contractor
- c. Any excess mulch product is available to be taken away, free of charge, by any permit holder, with permission of staff